

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Korea

REPORT

SUBJECT Fall Grain Harvest Estimates for 1954  
and Taxes-in-Kind, Kyongsong-gun

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1. In late July 1954 the chief of the Kyongsong (N 41-40, E 129-41) (EB5713) Experimental Farm estimated that the total fall harvests of rice, wheat, millet, and other grains in Kyongsong-gun would probably attain only 30 percent of the state quota, as the extremely heavy spring and early summer rains had devastated many formerly productive fields.<sup>1</sup> The official added that the farmers faced one of the hardest winters in years because of the low harvest yields.
2. In August there was a storage point for taxes-in-kind in Kyongsong-gun EB550128. The storage compound, which was illuminated on the outside by several electric lights, was surrounded by a stone wall one meter high. The wall was topped by a barbed wire fence 50 centimeters in height. Of the 20 buildings within the enclosed area, six are one-storied warehouses comprising an area of 50 p'yong,<sup>2</sup> two are one-storied brick warehouses comprising 40 p'yong, and the remainder are warehouses converted from former Japanese barracks. The grain stored at this point is first cleaned at the state-managed rice mill at Chuul (N 41-35 E 129-36) (EB5003). 25X1
3. In Kyongsong-gun in the spring of 1954 the harvest of potatoes was unusually good, averaging 5.5 kilograms per p'yong of land, and for this reason the authorities insisted that the potato tax-in-kind be paid in the spring. As the tax-in-kind on potatoes in Kyongsong-gun has always been high, previously farmers usually waited until the fall before paying it. By this means they were able to pay the tax in other minor crops as well as potatoes, thus saving some potatoes for home consumption.

1. Comment. The government quota is based on the average harvests of the previous year. 25X1

2. Comment. One p'yong equals 3.95 square yards. 25X1

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